

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, PU

SUBJ: GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

REF: ALGIERS 1849

1. LOCAL COMMENT AND SPECULATION FOLLOWING SIGNATURE OF PORTUGAL-GUINEA-BISSAU ACCORDS AUGUST 26 (REFTEL) HAS CENTERED ON WHAT TWO SIDES DECIDED WITH REGARD TO CAPE VERDE ISLANDS. ACTUAL TEXT OF ACCORD HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE ONLY STATED THAT PORTUGUESE DELEGATION REAFFIRMED RIGHT OF PEOPLE OF CAPE VERDE ISLANDS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE.

2. IN ANSWER TO PRESS QUESTION ON HIS DEPARTURE, PORTUGUESE FONMIN SOARES SAID THAT PEOPLE OF CAPE VERDES WOULD BE CONSULTED IN ADVANCE WITH REGARD TO THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AND THAT DATE OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE THE SAME FOR ALL REMAINING PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. IN
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SEPARATE INTERVIEW WITH APS, PAIGC LEADER PIRES SAID

THAT A CAPE VERDE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE ELECTED WHICH WOULD DECIDE TERMS OF UNITY WITH GUINEA-BISSAU.

3. WHILE NOT NECESSARILY IN CONFLICT, THESE TWO STATEMENTS ARE BEING INTERPRETED HERE AS FAVORING AND OPPOSING POPULAR REFERENDUM ON CAPE VERDES.

4. PIRES HAS ALSO STATED THAT GUINEA-BISSAU WILL FOLLOW NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY. LOCAL PRESS ALSO REPORTS: (A) THAT SOARES AND ALMEIDA SANTOS WILL GO TO GUINEA-BISSAU TO COMPLETE PROCESS OF TRANSFER OF POWERS' (B) THAT FRANCE WILL ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AND (C) THAT GUINEA-BISSAU MINISTER OF COMMERCE ARMAND RAMOS HAS ARRIVED IN ALGIERS AT GOA INVITATION TO DISCUSS ALGERIAN-GB COOPERATION AND TO ATTEND ALGIERS INTERNATIONAL FAIR.PELLETTREAU

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